



## **APPENDIX 1**

### **St Mabyn Parish Council Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7pm**

All parish councillors are unpaid volunteers who give up their time for the good of their local community. This fact is often overlooked.

I like to think that recent years have seen St Mabyn Parish Council adopt a "no fuss" approach to its business. We have concentrated on the basics and kept council tax as low as possible.

Percentage increases in the St Mabyn precept have nearly always been lower than those imposed by Cornwall Council.

Yet at the same time we have tried to support and maintain community assets like the village hall and the cemetery. We provided the car park and linked it to a new permissive footpath.

We have also tried to support other important aspects of community life such as the village school and even the church bells.

Most of what we do is pretty straightforward – a replacement bench here, a new notice board there – the sort of routine parish pump activity that does not make headlines. I am confident that St Mabyn Parish Council is good value for money, not least because we often get things done for free!

The council has direct responsibility for the St Mabyn playing field and I would again like to thank the small group of volunteers who continue to maintain this "jewel in the crown" of parish life.

The only reason the playing field is so good is because a handful of people give up their time to keep it in good condition. I am incredibly grateful to them.

### **Controversies**

The past 12 months have also seen the parish council continue to take a leading role in trying to respond to issues stemming from the Chapelfield development, particularly the inadequate sewage disposal arrangements.

The Council has also supported residents who are concerned about the burning of builders' waste and has raised this issue with the Environment Agency.

I am pleased that St Mabyn Parish Council has recognised the need for an evidence-based response to plans for what would be a huge new development, on Glebe Land, to the south east of the village.

It is important to stress that no formal planning application has yet been submitted. And I rather suspect that global economic circumstances mean the bulldozers are still a few years away.

But the more local people who know about the proposals, and who are able to express a view about the future character of St Mabyn, the better.

Most controversies take a few years to reach crisis point and the car parking problems at the junction of Station Road and Wadebridge Road, opposite the cemetery, are a good example.

Cornwall Council and Cormac will soon attempt to deal with this by consulting about double-yellow lines.

As I am on my way out, I shall take this opportunity to express my frustration that Parish Councils are so severely limited in what they can do.

To those who ask "why hasn't the Parish Council done this, or that?" the answer is because the Parish Council is not allowed to.

Most of the serious problems faced by St Mabyn in recent years – Chapelfield, sewage disposal, car parking – would never have happened at all if the Parish Council had the authority to make decisions about them. Instead, the Parish Council is merely "notified" of something and its views are then often ignored.

The jaw-dropping incompetence of South West Water, and Cornwall Council, in allowing the Chapelfield development to go ahead without an adequate sewage disposal plan ought to be investigated by a formal inquiry. It has caused harm. And this has happened because the authorities ignored the repeated advice and warnings from St Mabyn Parish Council.

To say that this is frustrating is an understatement!

Tomorrow I am stepping down as chairman, after five years in the hot seat.

I would like to thank all of my fellow Parish Councillors for their support and encouragement. I am particularly grateful to my vice-chairman, Councillor Dickie Martin, who has shared the burden of "high office."

I would also like to thank our Parish Council Clerk, Linda Coles, and our local divisional member of Cornwall Council, Robin Moorcroft, who both work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that things happen between council meetings.

I now aim to retire to the back benches, from where I will offer support and encouragement to whoever is elected by Councillors tomorrow.

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